

veterans groups have traveled to Vietnam to press for that goal.

In an effort to encourage further progress, it is appropriate at this time to recognize what the Vietnamese have done in our effort to account for our missing. Attached is a summary outlining that progress. Therefore, I have decided to end our opposition to the efforts of other nations to clear Vietnam's arrears in the IMF. I believe, as do former POW's John McCain and Douglas "Pete" Peterson and other veterans such as John Kerry and others in Congress, that such action will best serve the goal of achieving further progress toward the fullest possible accounting.

Any further steps in U.S.-Vietnamese relations will strictly depend on further progress by the Vietnamese on the POW/MIA issue. We should not be swayed from that course; America owes no less to the brave men and women who fought in Vietnam and to their loved ones. Progress to date is simply not sufficient to warrant any change in our trade embargo or any further steps toward normalization.

In order to press for further progress and send a clear message to the Vietnamese Government, I will send to Hanoi a high-level delegation. The official delegation will include Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hershel Gober, Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, and Lt. Gen. Michael E. Ryan.

I also have invited representatives of the three largest veterans groups to accompany the delegation. The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans have each agreed to send representatives with the delegation, and I am grateful for their willingness to participate in this important mission. In addition, I have invited the National

League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia to send a representative. I have also asked our current Ambassador in Thailand, David Floyd Lambertson, who has extensive experience in Vietnam, to assist the delegation.

The delegation will make clear to the Vietnamese that any further steps in relations between our two nations depend on tangible progress on the outstanding POW/MIA cases. We insist upon efforts by the Vietnamese in four key areas:

Remains: Concrete results from efforts on their part to recover remains and repatriate American remains.

Discrepancy cases: Continued resolution of 92 discrepancy cases, live sightings, and field activities.

Laos: Further assistance in implementing trilateral investigation with the Lao.

Archives: Accelerated efforts to provide all POW/MIA related documents that will help lead to genuine answers.

The individuals on this delegation share my own determination to do all we can to find the truth surrounding those who did not come home. They will press hard for results.

The delegation will also raise with the Vietnamese continuing human rights concerns and press for progress in the areas of basic freedoms, democracy, and economic reform.

For many Americans, the Vietnam war left deep wounds that have yet to heal. One of the ways to help the process of healing is to help the friends and families of POW's and MIA's learn the truth. The steps I have outlined today will advance that goal.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meetings With South African Leaders

July 2, 1993

The President held separate meetings this afternoon with South African State President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress President Nelson Mandela. The meetings lasted about 30 minutes each.

The two meetings focused on the process of democratic reform in South Africa and how the

United States can assist that historic process. The President expressed his appreciation for the leadership demonstrated by both individuals in moving South Africa towards the threshold of a nonracial democracy. He expressed particular

admiration to President Mandela for his courage and dignity through decades of struggle and sacrifice against the evils of apartheid and to President de Klerk for his wisdom and determination in moving to dismantle that destructive system. He welcomed the announcement earlier today of the setting of a date for holding the first nonracial elections in South Africa's history and the progress made toward creation of a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) which will help ensure those elections are free and fair.

The President welcomed the progress achieved in the negotiations in the last few days and commended all those working for a peaceful transition to democracy. He pledged that the United States will be a full partner in building democracy in South Africa, including continued support for programs of voter education and training of election monitors. He stressed the need to begin to tackle the cruel legacies of apartheid, including economic inequity, unemployment, inadequate housing, and poor education for South Africa's nonwhite population. He said that the United States will press for a commitment at the G-7 summit in Tokyo next week to reintegrate South Africa into the world economy with agreement on a nonracial democracy.

The President noted that the administration is working with Congress and antiapartheid groups to develop additional support measures

once negotiations have progressed to the point where it is appropriate to lift remaining sanctions. Among these measures are negotiation of an OPIC investment encouragement agreement, a tax treaty, and a housing investment guarantee program. Once the TEC is created, the United States will stand ready to support its institutions designed to facilitate a smooth transition to democracy.

The President also underscored the importance of the private sector in creating growth and equality in South Africa. He looks forward to the day when all South Africans can call for the lifting of remaining economic and financial sanctions, including state and local government sanctions, and hopes that day will come soon.

The President also expressed to President de Klerk the deep appreciation of the United States for the recent decision by the Government of South Africa to forgo development of a space-launch vehicle program. He noted that the United States can now look forward to cooperation with a democratic South Africa on the peaceful uses of space technology.

The President said that he welcomed the opportunity to celebrate our Independence Day by presenting Freedom Awards to Presidents de Klerk and Mandela in Philadelphia on Sunday, July 4.

Nomination for Secretary of the Air Force

July 2, 1993

The President announced his intention today to nominate Sheila E. Widnall, associate provost of MIT and vice chair of the Carnegie Corporation Board, to be the Secretary of the Air Force. Ms. Widnall will be the first woman Service Secretary.

"I am very proud to be making this announcement," said the President. "Sheila Widnall is

a woman of high achievement: a respected scientist, a skilled administrator, and a dedicated citizen. I am confident that she will do an outstanding job of guiding the Air Force through this period of post-cold-war change."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.